

THE GENERIC NAME OF THE COMMON FLYING-SQUIRRELS.

The generic name *Sciuropterus* F. Cuvier, 1825, in current use for the common palearctic and American flying squirrels, must, according to the international code, give place to *Pteromys* G. Cuvier, 1800. While *Sciuropterus* contained the species *volans* (*Sciurus volans* Linnæus = *Pteromys russicus* Tiedemann) only, *Pteromys* included the same animal and *Sciurus petaurista* Gmelin, the latter type by tautonymy of the genus *Petaurista* Link, 1795. In 1826* F. Cuvier selected the species *petaurista* as the type of *Pteromys*, thus apparently making the name a synonym of *Petaurista*. Six years previously, however, Fleming† had chosen *volans* as type, a fact hitherto overlooked.

—Gerrit S. Miller, Jr.

ON THE SYSTEMATIC NAMES OF THE CHEETAHS.

In a recent paper on the nomenclature of the cheetahs, Dr. Max Hilzheimer‡ proposes serious changes from the conclusions on this subject which I presented in 1911§. These changes I believe to be entirely erroneous, and they should not be passed unnoticed.

The plan to transfer the name *Felis jubata* Schreber to the Indian cheetah, on the basis of the color and markings of the exceedingly inaccurate picture (plate 105) in Schreber's work, in preference to my method of fixing the type locality from the excellent text, is surely not defensible. The plate in question is barely identifiable as to genus, much less species or subspecies. The name *Felis guttata* Hermann, which I threw out as indeterminable, is, I believe, better left so. Whether the basis for the name be taken from Hermann's brief text or from Hammer's description the name can not be fixed on a cheetah. The plate in Schreber (105 b), even if it could be allowed to have weight in the determination of Hermann's name, is colored so unlike any cheetah that the name would still be better left out of the question. The name must, however, rest on the original publication, where it either refers to a serval or else is indeterminable.

Great stress is laid by Hilzheimer on the fact that I made no use of the name "*Acinonyx guepard*," of Brookes, which Hilzheimer, without having seen the original reference, considers the type of the genus *Acinonyx*. *Acinonyx* is a valid name only on page 16 of Brookes' Catalogue and includes only the single species *Acinonyx venator* of India, which is thus the type of the genus by monotypy. On page 33, as cited in quotation by Palmer, who had not at that time seen the work, *Acinonyx* is used in connection with *A. guepard* and *A. venator*, but all are *nomina nuda*. Not being a valid name, *guepard* did not receive consideration in my paper.

The earliest valid names for African and Indian cheetahs should, I believe, remain just as I stated in 1911, *jubatus* Schreber and *venaticus* Smith, respectively.

—N. Hollister.

* Dict. Sci. Nat., Vol. 44, p. 40.

† Philos. of Zool., Vol. 2, p. 190.

‡ Sitz-ber. Ges. nat. Fr., Berlin, 1913, pp. 283-292.

§ Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, Vol. 24, pp. 225-226, 1911.